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June 6, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 408X); BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE**

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, now BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 15.60-mile line of railroad between BNSF milepost 1.90, near Aurora, and milepost 17.50, near Central City, in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, NE. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2004 (69 FR 13349-50). The exemption became effective on May 31, 2004.

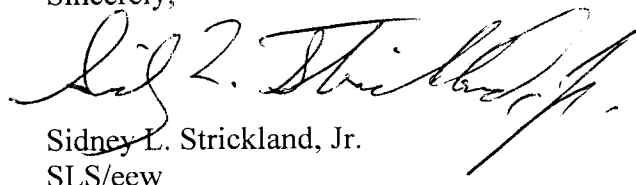
By decision served December 29, 2005, the STB granted BNSF's request for an extension of time to file a notice of consummation until July 1, 2006. Scheduling difficulties with salvagers have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2006.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
SLS/eww

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